

60,130-1108; 01MRA0212

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-12, 14-17, and 21-24 are presently pending in the application. Claims 1 and 8 are independent apparatus claims.

All of the rejections utilize Reiter as the base reference. The applicant disagrees with the examiner's characterization of element 52 as a bearing cage when the specification clearly refers to element 52 as snap rings. While the examiner is permitted to read the claim language broadly, the examiner is not permitted to interpret language repugnant to the ordinary meaning of that term. In particular, one of ordinary skill in the art recognizes that a snap ring is not a bearing cage. Nonetheless, the examiner's rejections relying upon Reiter are still improper.

All of the pending claims require that a bearing assembly includes an outer race spaced from the housing. Reiter does not meet this limitation as argued by the examiner. Specifically, the outer race 40 is clearly shown to be in contact with the housing 2 in Figures 1 and 4. Moreover, the outer surface of the outer race 40 is described as being in an interference fit relationship with the housing in column 3, lines 59-62. Furthermore, in view of this interference fit, what would be the benefit of the protrusions? Accordingly, all of the examiner's rejections to the claims are improper and must be withdrawn.

2

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Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: July 2, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, fax number (703) 305-7687, on July 2, 2003.

Laura Combs
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